

BOOK 2

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

Asterix

IN SPAIN

Asterix



HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS

TODAY, MARCH 17 TH, 45 BC
(LATER, OF COURSE, ST. PATRICK DAY),
ALL IS PEACEFUL IN THE LITTLE
GAULISH VILLAGE WE KNOW SO
WELL. THIS TRANQUILITY IS
ABOUT TO BE DISTURBED, HOWEVER,
BY EVENTS FAR AWAY IN
LOWER HISPANIA...

**FRESH
FISH - IT'S
LUVELY!**

**WHO'LL BUY
MY FINE
FISH?**

HOW ABOUT
SOME,
FOR A
CHANGE?

A CHANGE FROM
WHAT? I'VE
ONLY EATEN TWO
BOARDS SO FAR
TODAY!

HYGIENIX
FISHMONGER

ONE YEAR AFTER HIS VICTORY OVER THE SUPPORTERS
OF POMPEY AT THAPSUS, CAESAR HAS JUST MOPPED
UP THE SURVIVORS AT MUNDIA*, BRINGING THE WHOLE
OF HISPANIA UNDER THE ROMAN YOKE...

LEGIONARIES,
CAESAR IS PLEASED
WITH YOU!

BEFORE GOING BACK TO ROME,
WHERE A GREAT TRIUMPH AWAITS
HIM, JULIUS CAESAR INSPECTS
HIS OLD GUARD, THE GLORIOUS
XTH LEGION.

* MONTILLA

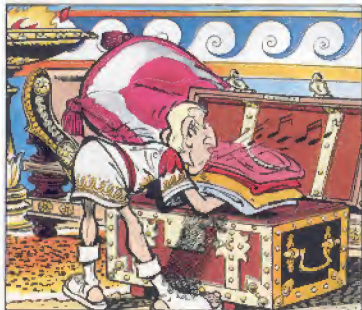
THIS CHARMING GESTURE
ASTONISHES SOME IBERIANS WHO
HAPPEN TO BE WATCHING.

AND THE IBERIANS, BEING A PROUD AND NOBLE RACE, ARE
ALWAYS READY TO ADMIRE BRAVE WARRIORS.

¡AY, HOMBRE! WHY
ARE THEY LENDING
HIM THEIR EARS?

I THINK HE HAS
THEIR EARS
BECAUSE HE FOUGHT
SO WELL

¡OLÉ!



WELL, WELL! MY
OLD LAURELS, ALL
CRUMPLED UP! I MUST
HAVE RESTED ON THEM
ONE NIGHT,
BY MISTAKE!



AVE,
CAESAR!



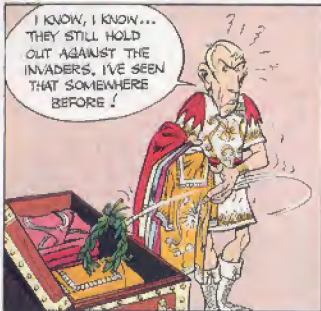
AVE, AVE,
MY DEAR FELLOW!
SO IT'S VENI, VIDI,
VICI ONCE AGAIN,
WHAT, BY JUPITER!



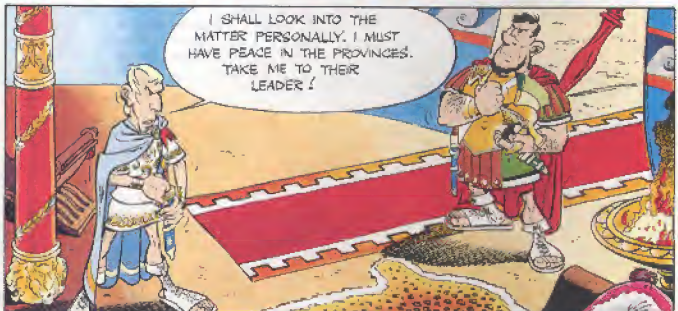
NOT QUITE VICI
YET, I'M AFRAID,
NOT QUITE VICI...



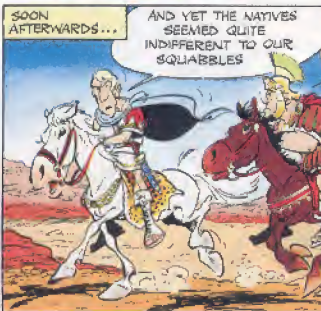
THERE'S A LITTLE VILLAGE, NOT
FAR FROM MUNDA, WHOSE
INHABITANTS ARE REFUSING TO
INTEGRATE WITH THE ROMAN
WORLD, THEY STILL HOLD
OUT...



I KNOW, I KNOW...
THEY STILL HOLD
OUT AGAINST THE
INVADERS, I'VE SEEN
THAT SOMEWHERE
BEFORE!



I SHALL LOOK INTO THE
MATTER PERSONALLY. I MUST
HAVE PEACE IN THE PROVINCES.
TAKE ME TO THEIR
LEADER!

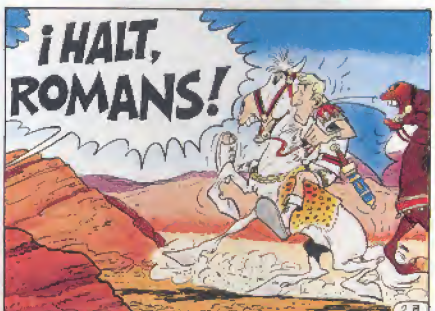


SOON
AFTERWARDS...

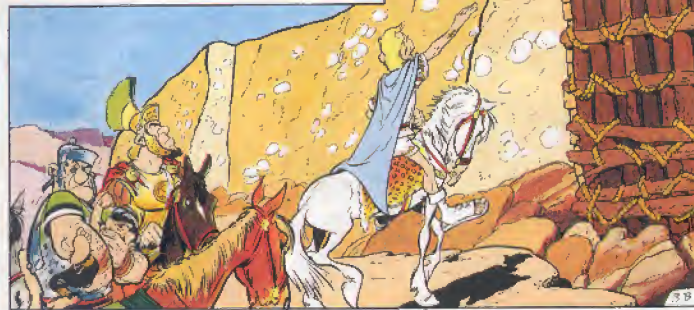
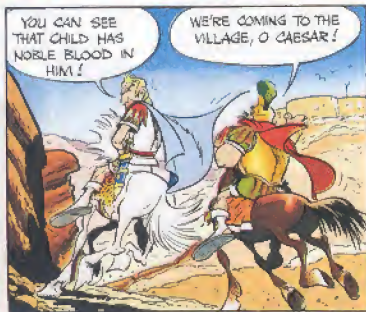
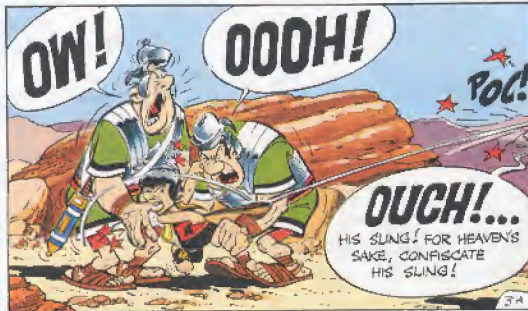
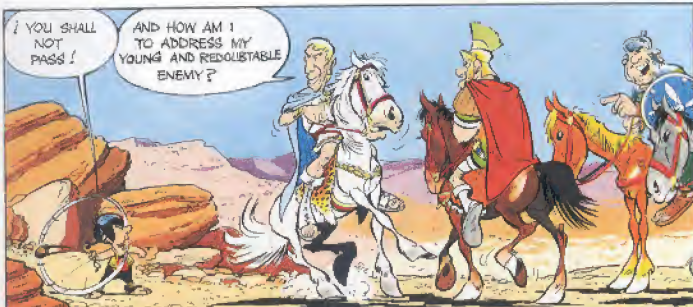
AND YET THE NATIVES
SEEMED QUITE
INDIFFERENT TO OUR
SQUABBLES



THEY WERE PROBABLY
WAITING TO SEE WHO WON
SO THEY'D KNOW WHO TO
HOLD OUT AGAINST



**I HALT,
ROMANS!**





WELL NOW, IT APPEARS THAT YOU WANT TO HOLD OUT AGAINST US?

!THAT'S RIGHT! ; AS LONG AS WE ARE HERE YOU WON'T HAVE A MOMENT'S PEACE!



JOLE!

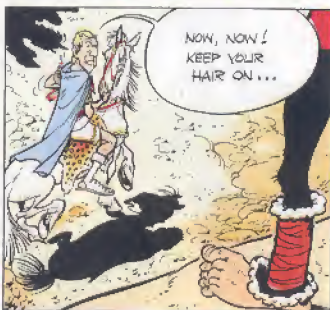


YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT. WE'RE HOLDING YOUR SON AS A HOSTAGE. AS LONG AS YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE BEHAVE YOURSELVES, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO HIM, OTHERWISE...

OUCH!



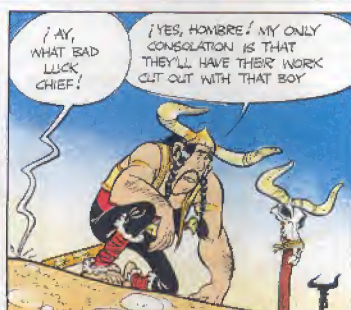
! IF I HAD YOU HERE, ROMAN, I'D HAVE YOU FRIED IN OLIVE OIL!



NOW, NOW! KEEP YOUR HAIR ON...

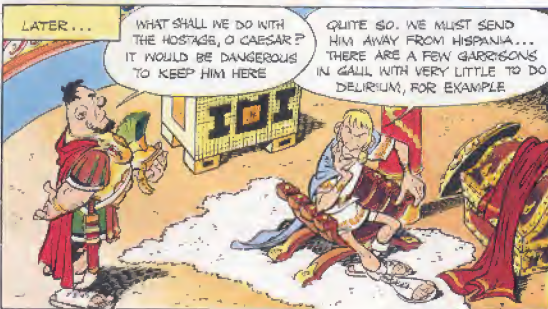


... OR YOU'LL SOON BE HEADLESS. AS LONG AS YOU GIVE US NO TROUBLE, YOUR SON WILL BE QUITE SAFE



! AY, WHAT BAD LUCK CHIEF!

! YES, HOMRE! MY ONLY CONSOLATION IS THAT THEY'LL HAVE THEIR WORK CUT OUT WITH THAT BOY



LATER...

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE HOSTAGE, O CAESAR? IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO KEEP HIM HERE

QUITE SO. WE MUST SEND HIM AWAY FROM HISPANIA... THERE ARE A FEW GARRISONS IN GALL WITH VERY LITTLE TO DO. DELIRIUM, FOR EXAMPLE



YOU MEAN TOTORUM, O CAESAR

THAT'S IT. HAVE HIM SENT THERE STRAIGHT AWAY, AND SEE THAT HE'S WELL LOOKED AFTER. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM, THOSE RESPONSIBLE WILL ANSWER FOR IT WITH THEIR HEADS!



THAT'S RIGHT, WE'VE FINISHED OFF OUR OWN LOT... DO YOU THINK WE COULD WRITE TO JULIUS CAESAR AND ASK HIM TO SEND US SOME NEW ONES?



MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST...

NO, NO, NO, AND FOR THE THIRD TIME NO! YOU'VE RUINED THE WHOLE JOURNEY WITH YOUR KIHMS! YOU'VE BITTEN US, YOU'VE GOT US DOWN, YOU'VE WORN OUR NERVES TO SHREDS...



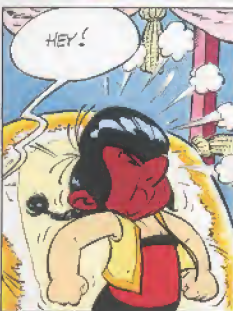
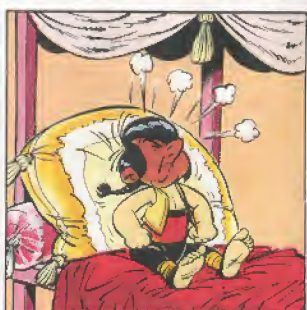
AND NOW WE'RE ALMOST AT TOTORUM! YOU WANT TO STOP AND PLAY?

NO!



SO?

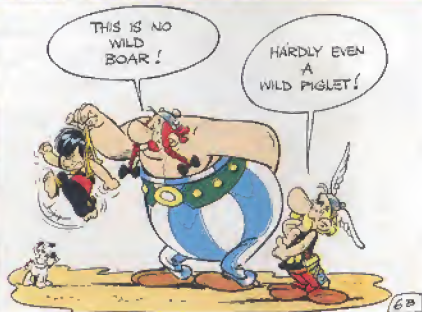
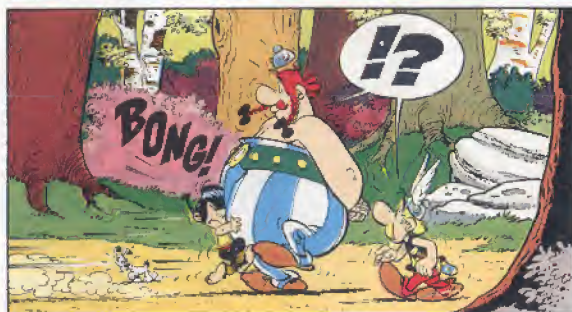
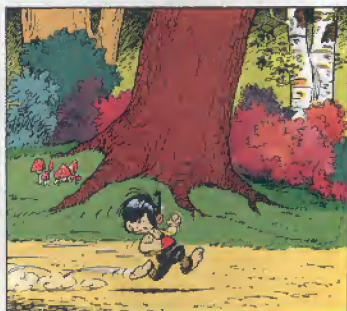
SO I'M GOING TO HOLD MY BREATH UNTIL SOMETHING DOES HAPPEN TO ME

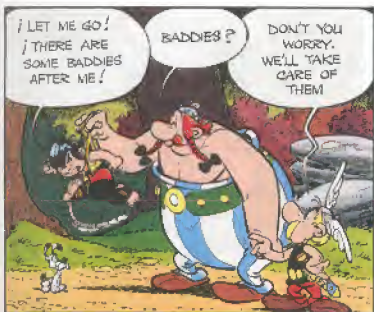


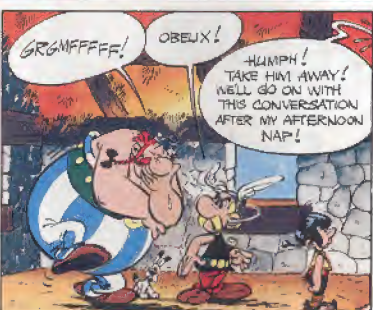
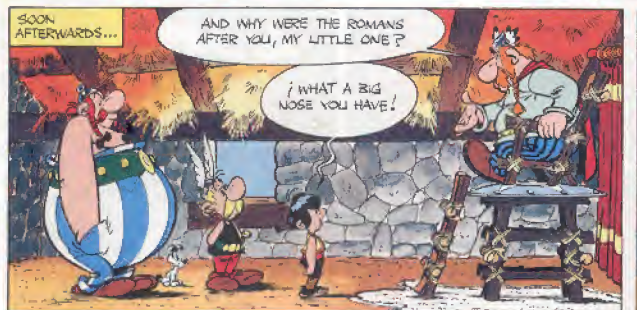
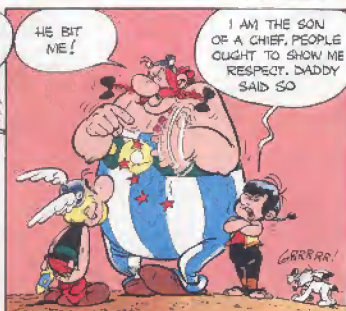
STOP! ALL RIGHT, WE'LL PLAY IT YOUR WAY!



PHEW!
I BREATHE AGAIN!









THE BATTLE IS SHORT, OWING TO THE CLEVER MANOEUVRES CARRIED OUT BY THE LEGIONARIES, NOTABLY A SKILFUL WITHDRAWAL TOWARDS PREVIOUSLY PREPARED POSITIONS...



FOR A FEW OF THEM, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO MANOEUVRE...



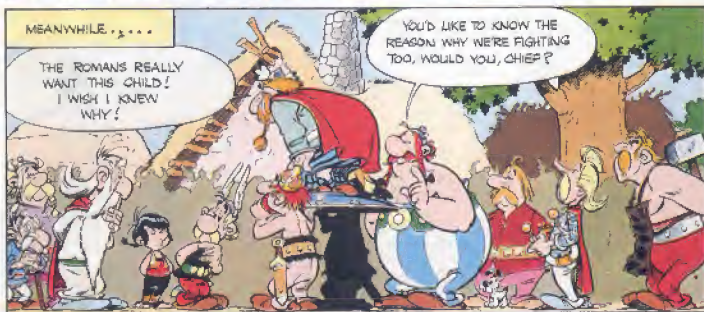
WHAT WAS THAT?

THAT WAS A WORD OUT OF PLACE!

MEANWHILE...

THE ROMANS REALLY WANT THIS CHILD! I WISH I KNEW WHY!

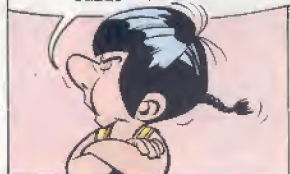
YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW THE REASON WHY WE'RE FIGHTING TOO, WOULD YOU, CHIEF?



WELL, SONNY? TELL US WHAT BROUGHT YOU FROM HISPANIA TO GAUL.



MY DADDY IS THE STRONGEST DADDY IN THE WORLD AND SILLY OLD JULIUS CAESAR IS FRIGHTENED OF MY DADDY AND SILLY OLD JULIUS CAESAR HAD ME BROUGHT TO GAUL TO FRIGHTEN MY DADDY BUT THAT WON'T STOP MY DADDY BASHING SILLY OLD JULIUS CAESAR.



JOÛÉ!

A HOSTAGE! HE'S A HOSTAGE! WE MUST PROTECT HIM FROM THE ROMANS, HE MUST NOT LEAVE THE VILLAGE!



OBELIX! I'M HANDING THIS LITTLE TERROR OVER TO YOU AND DON'T FORGET THAT AS YOUR GUEST, HE'S SACRED!

YOU MEAN HE'S A HOLY TERROR?

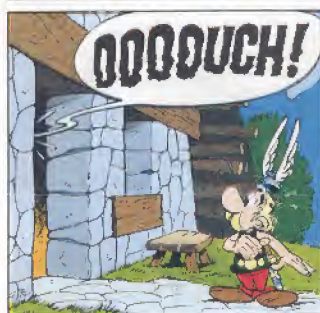
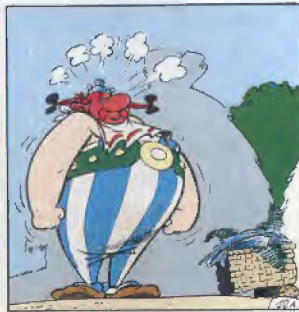
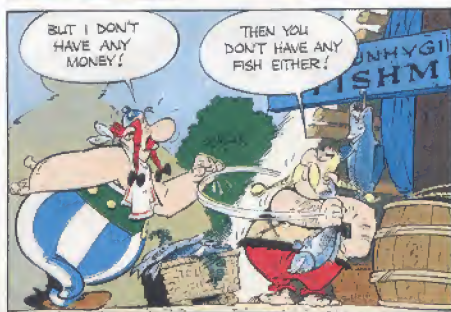
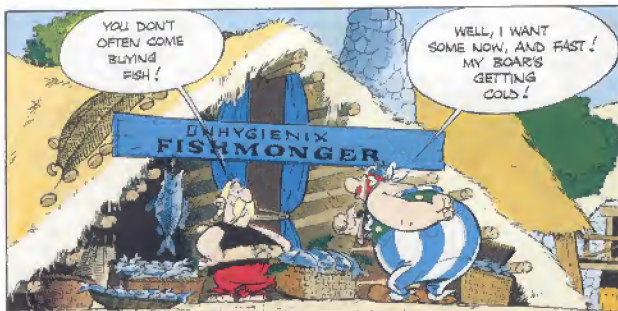


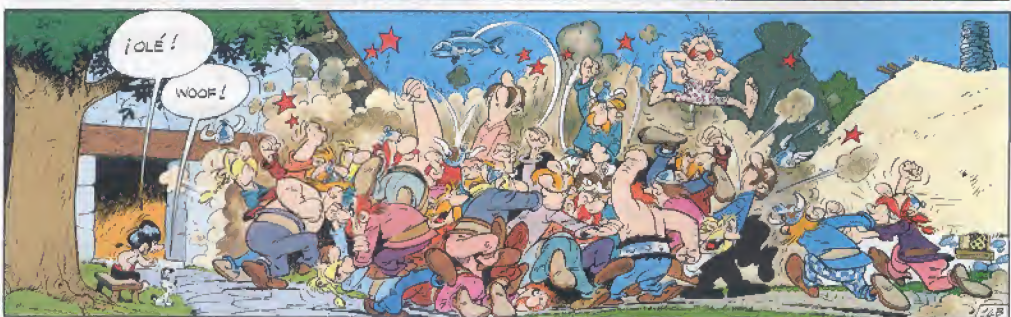
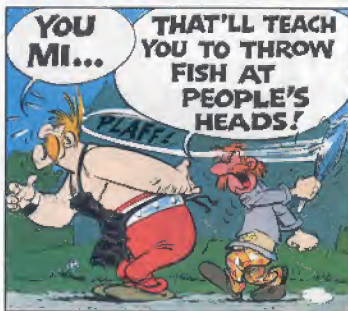
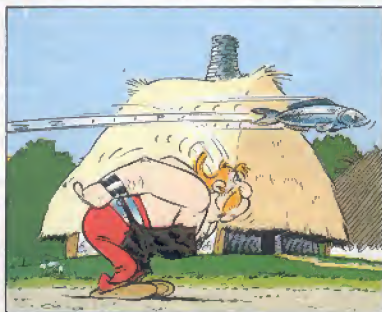
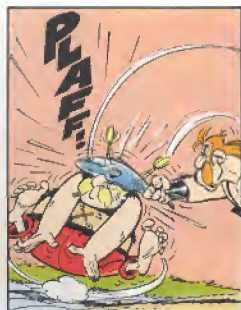
WHAT'S YOUR FIRST NAME, SON OF A CHIEF?

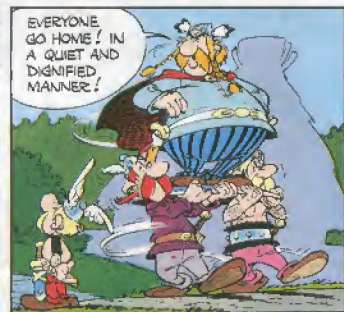
PERICLES. WE'VE GOT SOME GREEK ANCESTORS. AT HOME THEY CALL ME PEPE.













PEPE MAY BE A NUISANCE, BUT HE'S BEEN HITTING IT OFF WELL WITH DOGMATIX SINCE THE FIGHT!

PEPE IS A BAD EXAMPLE TO DOGMATIX! HE'S YOUNG AND EASILY LED... SOMETIMES THEY WHISPER TOGETHER AND LOOK AT ME AND GIGGLE...



WE USED TO GET ON WELL TOGETHER, ME AND DOGMATIX, AND NOW...

WAIT A MINUTE! I THINK I'VE GOT IT...



O BARD CACORONIX, WOULD YOU LIKE TO LOOK AFTER PEPE AT YOUR PLACE?

IF HE'D LIKE TO COME, IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE!



SOON AFTERWARDS...

I SHALL NOW SING YOU SOME LULLABIES TO SEND YOU TO SLEEP!



SURE ENOUGH....

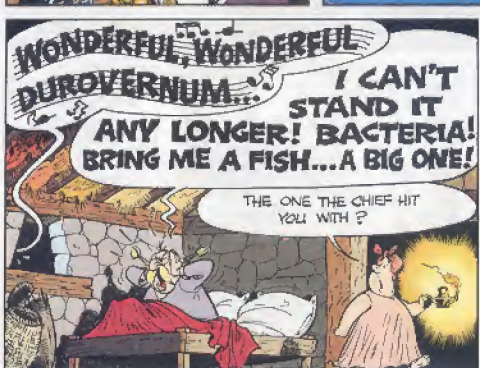
I'M DREAMING OF A WHITE SOLSTICE...



!OLÉ!
IT REMINDS ME OF HOME, ESPECIALLY THE GOATS! / ANOTHER ONE, HOMBRE, ANOTHER ONE!



ROCKABYE,
PEPE, ON THE TREE TOP...



WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL DUROVERNUM...

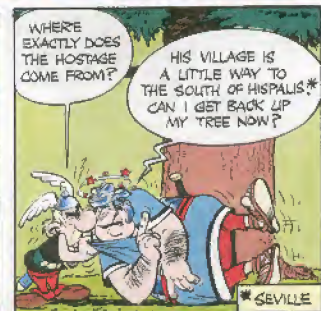
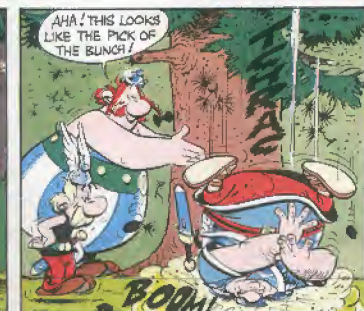
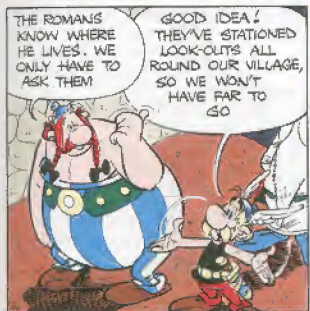
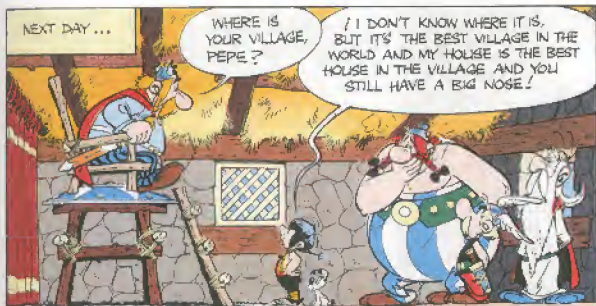
I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER! BACTERIA! BRING ME A FISH... A BIG ONE!

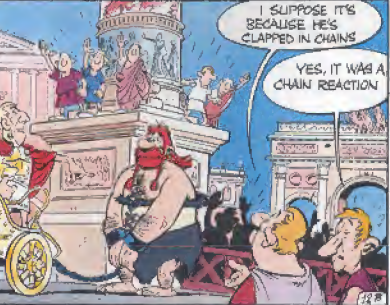
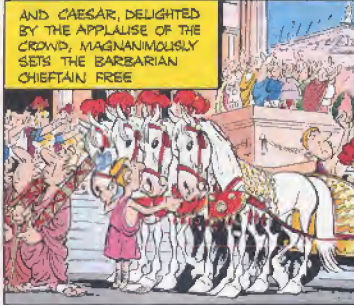
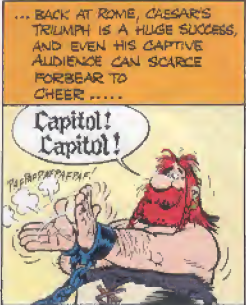
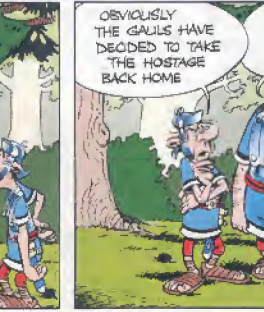
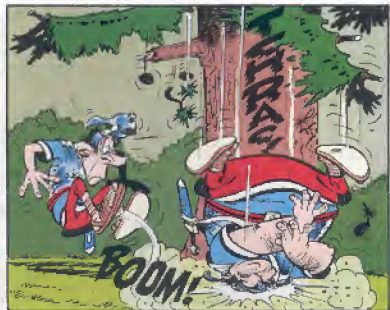
THE ONE THE CHIEF HIT YOU WITH?

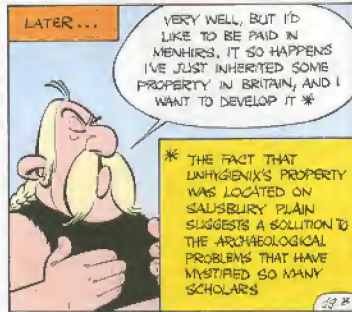
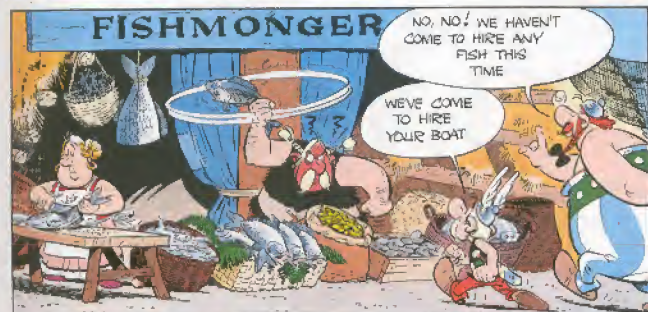
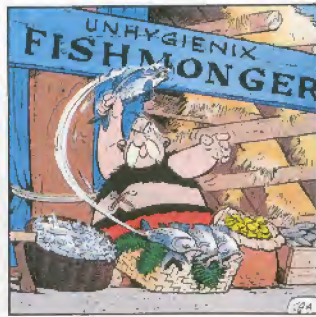
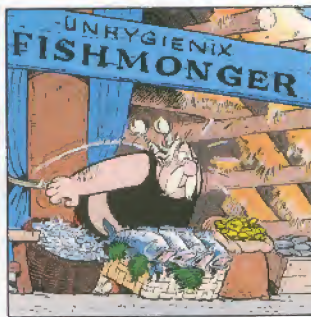


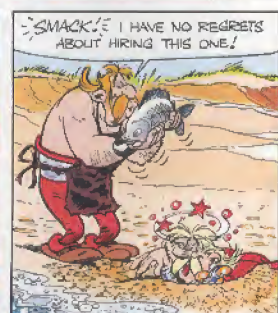
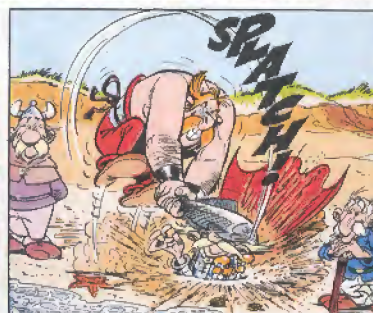
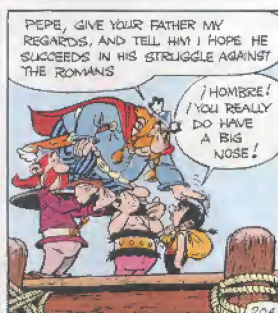
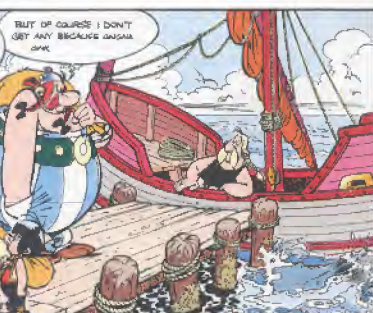
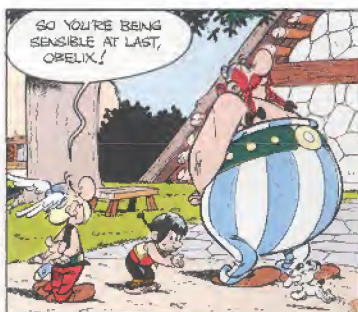
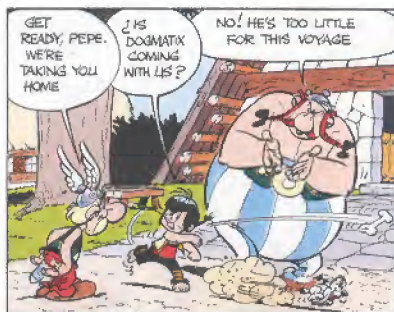
YOU KNOW, ASTERIX, I'M BEGINNING TO THINK IT IS OUR MORAL DUTY TO RESTORE THAT CHILD TO ITS PARENTS

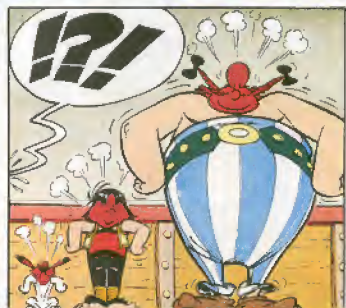
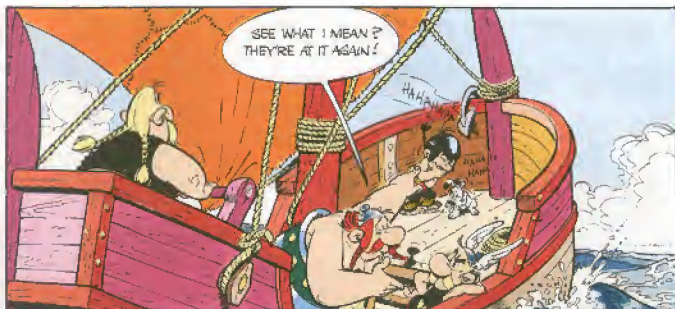
YES, IT'S A QUESTION OF MORALE











**WHAT'S THAT?
BEARING DOWN
ON US?**

WE
WONDERED IF
BY ANY CHANCE
YOU COULD...

**LOOK!
IT'S THE
PIRATES!**

THE GAULS!!!



NOW THEN,
OBELEX, WE'RE
HERE TO GET
SOME STORES.
WE MUSTN'T
BREAK
ANYTHING

I KNOW HOW
TO BEHAVE!

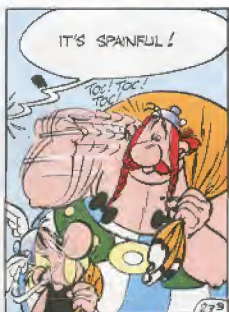
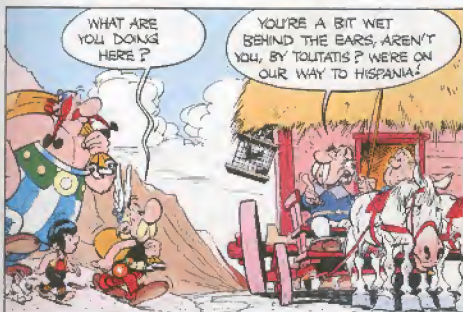
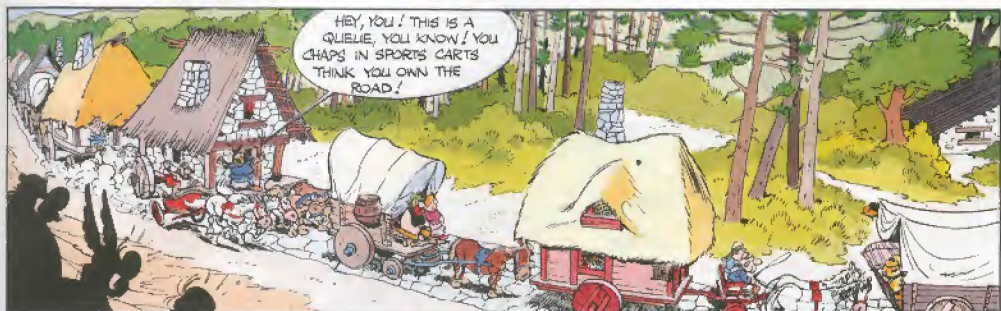
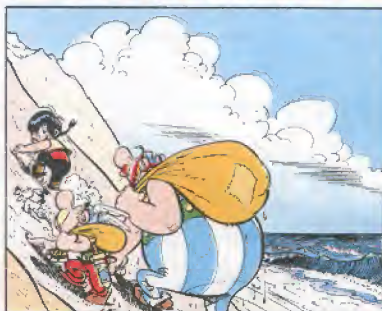
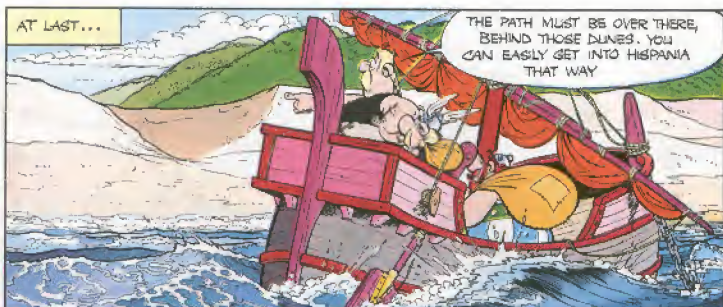
THIS IS A
BIT LIKE
GOING
SHOPPING

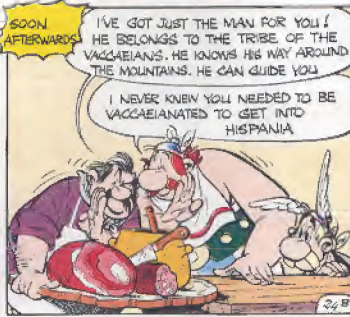
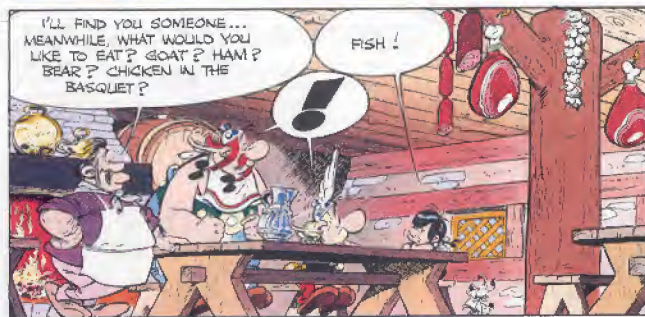
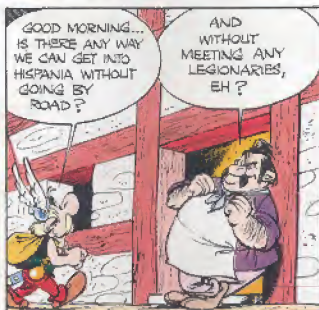
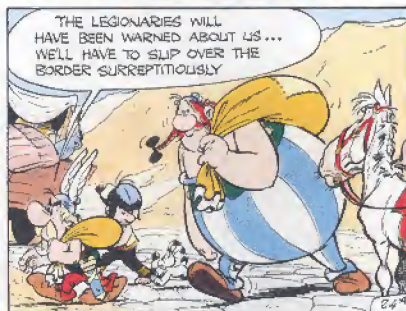
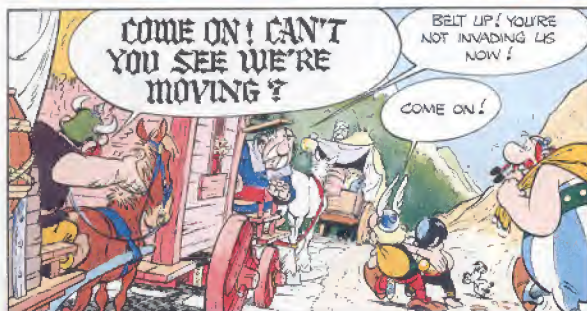
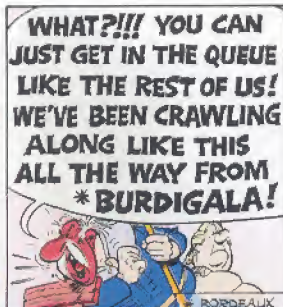
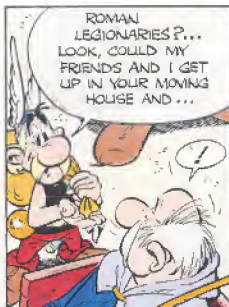
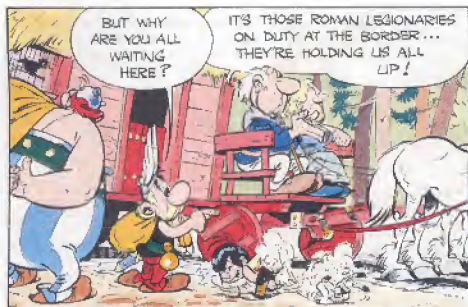
THAT'S HOW IT'LL BE
SOME DAY... SHOPS WHERE
YOU SERVE YOURSELF, YOU WON'T
HAVE TO KEEP BEATING THE
SHOPKEEPERS DOWN...

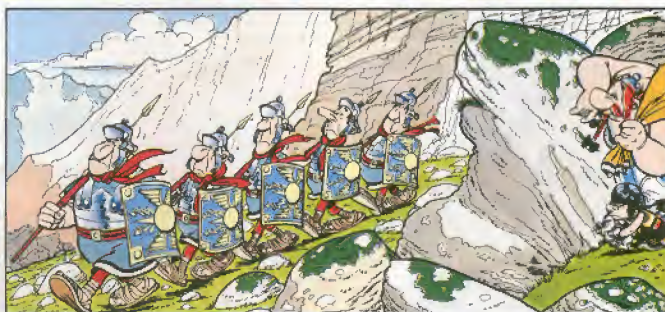
SOON
AFTERWARDS...

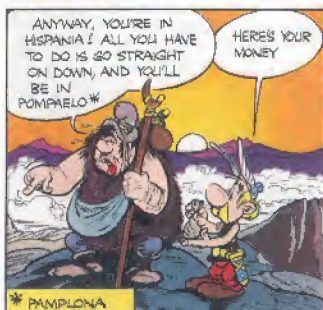
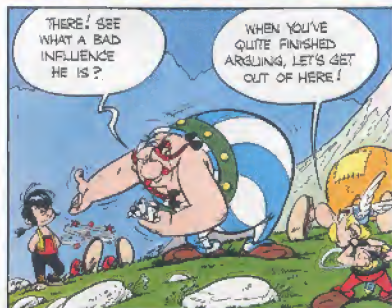
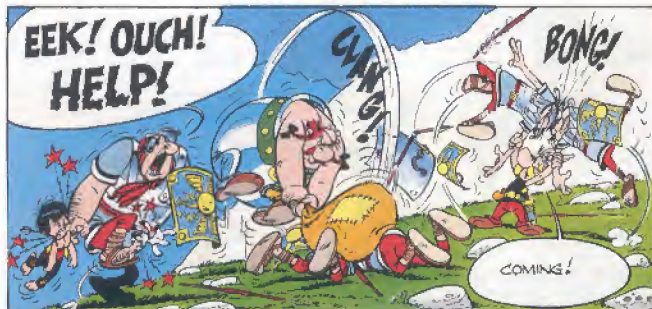
**AND THE FIRST ONE TO MAKE
ANY FUNNY REMARKS
WILL BE BAIT!!!**

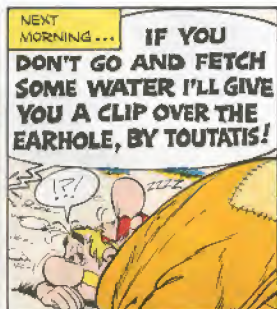
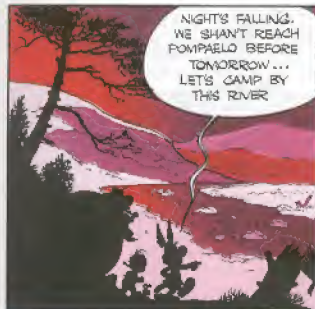
I KNEW THERE'D
BE A CATCH IN IT
SOMEWHERE! THIS IS
NOT QUITE MY LINE!

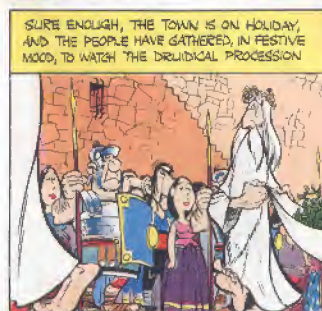
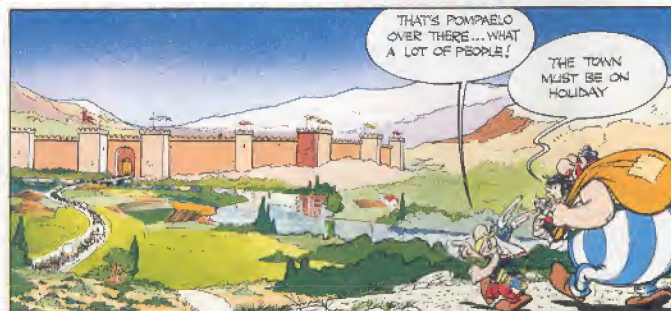
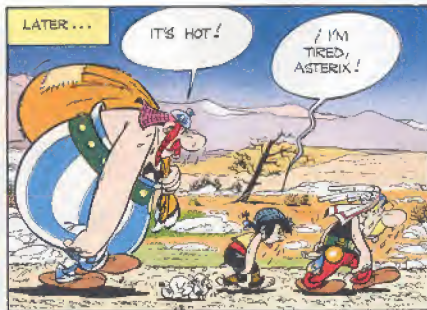


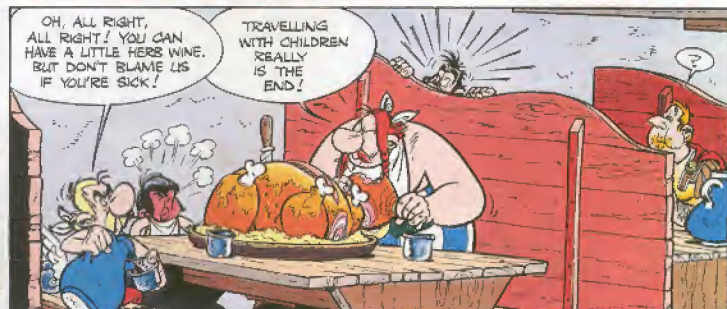
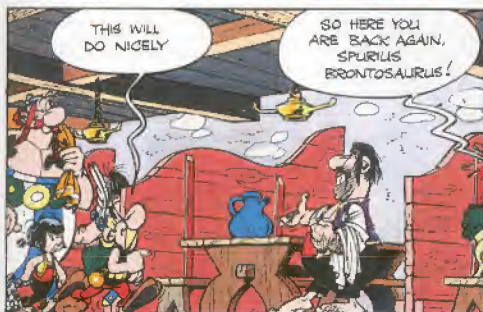


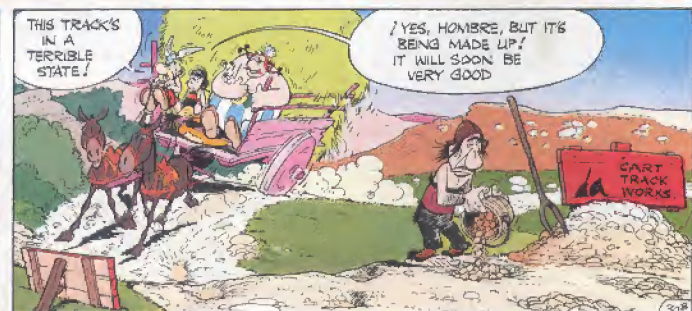
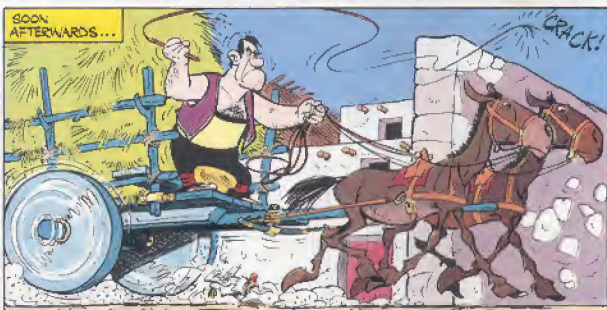
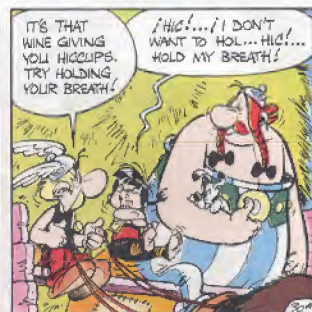
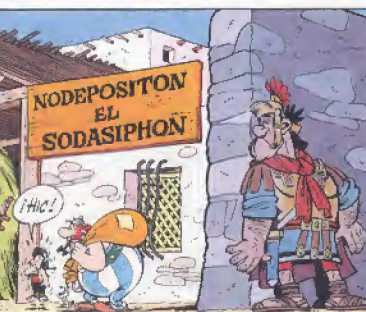
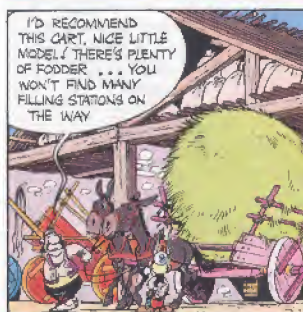








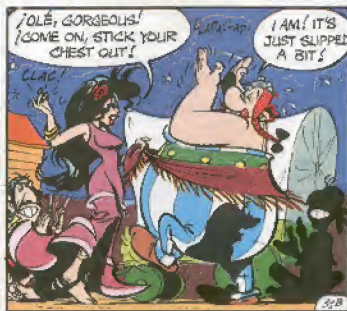
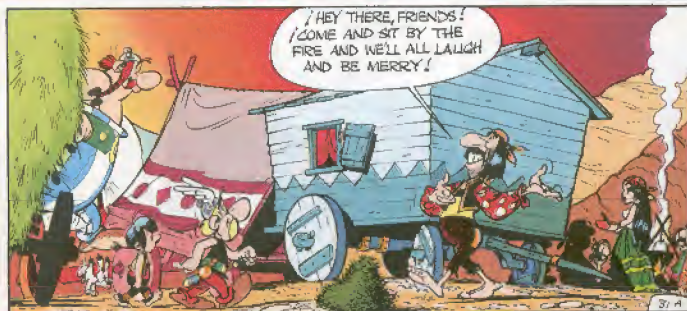




AFTER SEVERAL
HOURS' DRIVING...



WELL THEN,
LET'S STOP AND
ASK THEM TO
PUT US UP FOR
THE NIGHT



NEXT MORNING, OUR FRIENDS CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY....

IT'S A GOOD THING WE'VE GOT MORE SEASE THAN THOSE TWO SPECIMENS, DOGMATIX!

WOOF!

NEXT MORNING, OUR FRIENDS CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY....

IT'S A GOOD THING WE'VE GOT MORE SEASE THAN THOSE TWO SPECIMENS, DOGMATIX!

WOOF!

NEXT MORNING, OUR FRIENDS CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY....

IT'S A GOOD THING WE'VE GOT MORE SEASE THAN THOSE TWO SPECIMENS, DOGMATIX!

WOOF!

AY, AY, AY!
AND NO SPARE
WHEEL EITHER!

THERE'S A
CART
COMING

AY, AY, AY!
AND NO SPARE
WHEEL EITHER!

THERE'S A
CART
COMING

WE NEED HELP. COULD YOU DRIVE US TO THE NEAREST BREAKDOWN WHEEL-WRIGHT?

THE GAULS!

WE NEED HELP. COULD YOU DRIVE US TO THE NEAREST BREAKDOWN WHEEL-WRIGHT?

THE GAULS!

DOGMA!X! AREN'T YOU SATISFIED WITH ROMANS THESE DAYS? YOU MUST'N'T GO BITING PEOPLE TOO!

HE MAY BE A ROMAN! I'VE SEEN THAT FACE SOMEWHERE BEFORE

I THINK I HAVE TOO

COVERLY

DOGMA!X! AREN'T YOU SATISFIED WITH ROMANS THESE DAYS? YOU MUST'N'T GO BITING PEOPLE TOO!

HE MAY BE A ROMAN! I'VE SEEN THAT FACE SOMEWHERE BEFORE

I THINK I HAVE TOO

COVERLY

DOGMA!X! AREN'T YOU SATISFIED WITH ROMANS THESE DAYS? YOU MUST'N'T GO BITING PEOPLE TOO!

HE MAY BE A ROMAN! I'VE SEEN THAT FACE SOMEWHERE BEFORE

I THINK I HAVE TOO

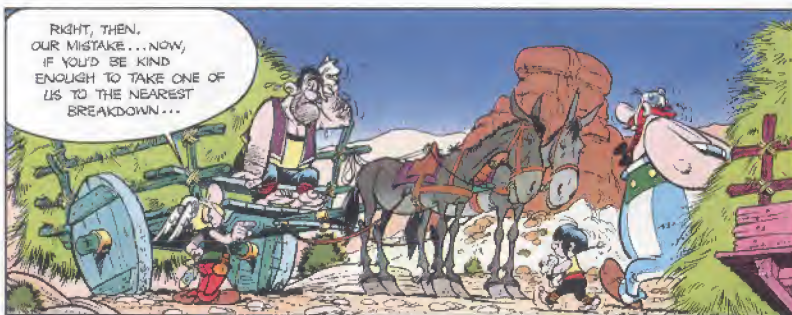
COVERLY

WHERE DO YOU COME FROM, FRIEND?

I...ER... BY JUPITER!
OH, NOWHERE!
I'M A NOMAD!
A HAPPY NOMAD,
HOMERE!

WHERE DO YOU COME FROM, FRIEND?

I...ER... BY JUPITER!
OH, NOWHERE!
I'M A NOMAD!
A HAPPY NOMAD,
HOMERE!



RIGHT, THEN.
OUR MISTAKE....NOW,
IF YOU'D BE KIND
ENOUGH TO TAKE ONE OF
US TO THE NEAREST
BREAKDOWN...



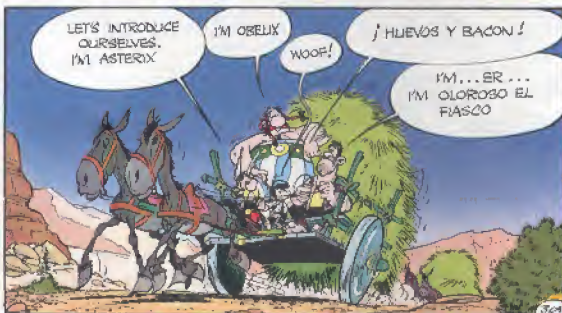
FINE! I'LL
TAKE THE LITTLE
BOY!



NO, WE NEVER
LET PEPE OUT OF
OUR SIGHT! WE'LL ALL
GO, IF IT'S ALL THE
SAME TO YOU

A PLEASURE!
/OLE!

IT'S
FOILED!



LET'S INTRODUCE
OURSELVES.
I'M ASTERIX

I'M OBEUX

WOOF!

! HUEVOS Y BACON!

I'M...ER...
I'M OLOROSO EL
FIASCO



THIS IS WHAT
WE WANT

OFF YOU GO,
BOTH OF YOU!
PEPE AND I
WILL WAIT



NO, WE'LL
ALL THREE
OF US GO
WITH PEPE!

OH, ALL RIGHT!
I'LL GO ON
MY OWN



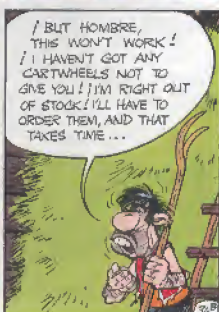
LISTEN...THERE
ARE SOME PEOPLE
OUT THERE WHO NEED
A CARTWHEEL.
I DON'T WANT YOU
TO GIVE THEM A
CARTWHEEL IF THEY
COME HERE, JUST
TELL THEM YOU
HAVEN'T GOT A
CARTWHEEL



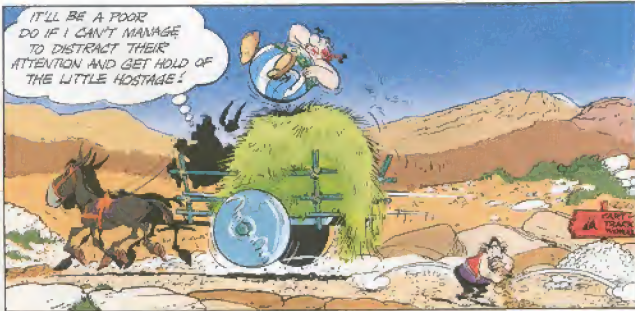
AND HERE'S
SOME MONEY
FOR THE
CARTWHEEL!



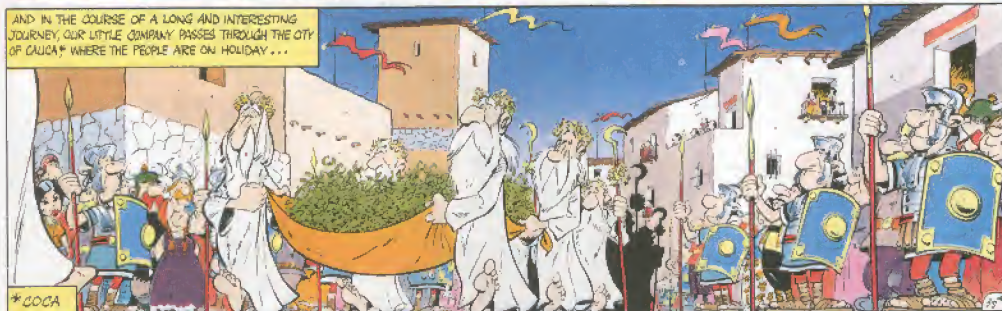
!?



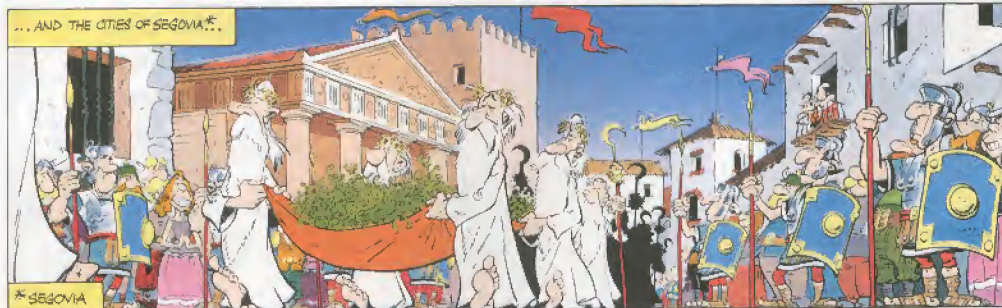
! BUT HOMRE,
THIS WON'T WORK!
I HAVEN'T GOT ANY
CARTWHEELS NOT TO
GIVE YOU! I'M RIGHT
OUT OF STOCK! I'LL
HAVE TO ORDER THEM,
AND THAT TAKES TIME...



AND IN THE COURSE OF A LONG AND INTERESTING JOURNEY, OUR LITTLE COMPANY PASSES THROUGH THE CITY OF CAUCA* WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE ON HOLIDAY ...



... AND THE CITIES OF SEGOVIA*.



... HELMANTICA*..



... AND CORDUBA*. BUT SPURIUS BRONTOSAURUS IS OUT OF LUCK, FOR ASTERIX, OBELIX AND DOGMATIX NEVER RELAX THEIR VIGILANCE FOR A MOMENT



WE'LL BE IN HISPAUS TOMORROW. IT'S MY LAST CHANCE. AFTER THAT, PEPE WILL BE BACK WITH HIS FATHER, AND ANY MILITARY CAREER WILL BE ENDING UP ON THE SAND OF THE ARENA!



STAND AND DELIVER!



JUST A MOMENT, NOBLE FOREIGNERS. / YOU ARE GOING TO HAND OVER ALL YOUR PROPERTY! / WE ARE BANDITS, AND I'M SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE TOO HAVE TO MAKE A PROFIT FROM THE TOURIST SEASON!



SHALL WE GET THEM?

I WANT TO GET THEM TOO!

I'M THE ONE WHO'S GETTING THEM!

WHY DON'T YOU BOTH GET THEM, AND I'LL LOOK AFTER PEPE!



/ COME ON, HOMBRES! / WE'RE NOT ON HOUDAY, EVEN IF YOU ARE. / WE CAN'T WAIT HERE ALL DAY!

OBLIX, YOU STAY WITH PEPE. PEPE! BREATHE! JUST A DROP OF MAGIC POTION, AND I'LL GET THEM!



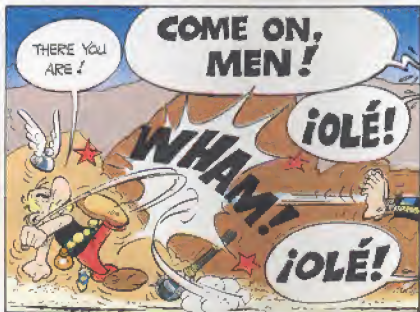
/ HAND IT OVER!



THERE YOU ARE!

COME ON, MEN!

WHAM!
IOLE!
IOLE!



AFTER A SHORT AND UNEQUAL BATTLE...

/ THE TOURISTS ARE FULL OF BEANS THIS YEAR!

YES, OUR COOKING MUST HAVE IMPROVED NO END

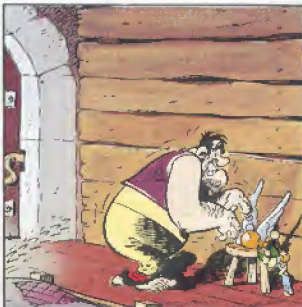


THE MAGIC POTION THAT GIVES SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH! THE FAMOUS MAGIC POTION! IT'S MY LAST CHANCE!

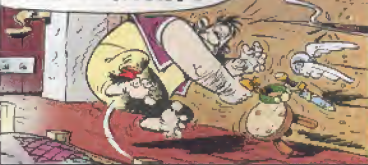


NIGHT HAS ALREADY FALLEN WHEN OUR FRIENDS ARRIVE IN HISPALIS, THE CAPITAL OF VANDALUSIA. THE MAGNIFICENT CITY IS FULL OF GAITY. IT IS A HOLIDAY!

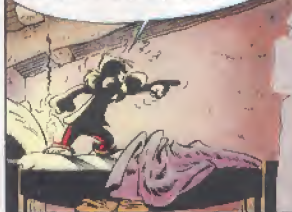




FISH? YOU MUST BE OFF YOUR ROCKER! WHERE DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GET FISH AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?



WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE MAGIC POTION?



DOGMATIX! BREATHE! KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF THIS!



STOP THIEF!



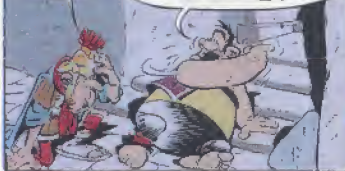
BRONTOSAURUS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN CIVVIES?

**THE DOPE!
THE DOPE!**



INSULTING ME ARE YOU? ME, YOUR OLD COMRADE IN ARMS?

**THAT GAUL!
DON'T LET HIM GET THE DOPE!**



HMM... THIS IS AS CLEAR AS MUD! LET'S GO AND SEE THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF



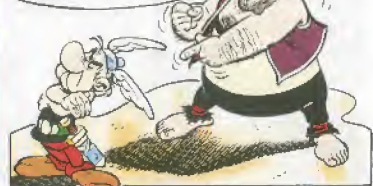
SOON AFTERWARDS,
IN THE C-IN-C'S
OFFICE...



WELL, BRONTOSAURUS?
YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF
A HOSTAGE, AND NOW I FIND
YOU BACK HERE, IN CIVVIES,
KICKING UP A ROW... I SUPPOSE
THE HOSTAGE IS SAFE
IN GAUL, EH?



HE STOLE THE HOSTAGE,
HE DID, ALONG WITH HIS
ACCOMPLICES! IF YOU HURRY
YOU'LL FIND HIM ASLEEP
IN THE 'TYPICAL VANDALLISIA'
INN WITH A BIG FAT
GAUL!



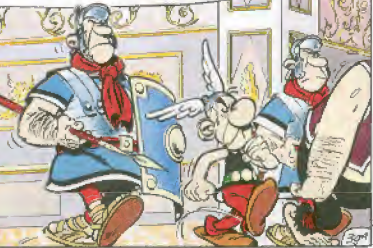
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT...
GO AND FIND THE
HOSTAGE, AND HAVE
THESE TWO THROWN
INTO PRISON!



WHAT IS
THIS
DOPE?



O GENERAL, I RATHER THINK IT'S SOMETHING
TO DO WITH THAT MAGIC POTION- THE ONE KNOWN
ONLY TO A LITTLE TRIBE OF GAULISH BARBARIANS...



IT IS SAID TO
GIVE GREAT
STRENGTH!



YOU DON'T
SAY!



COME HERE,
OBSEQUIUS, MY
DEAR FELLOW



THIS IS A
REAL HIT
FOR
OBSEQUIUS!



PAF!



EXCELLENT,
OBSEQUIUS!
YOU'VE
DONE VERY
WELL!



SHANKSH,
O SHENERAL!





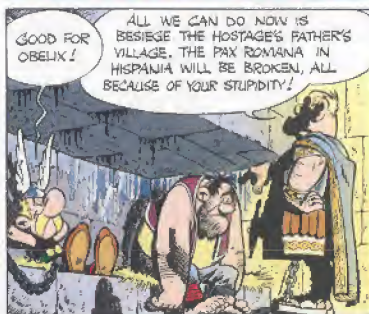
I NEVER TRUSTED YOU FROM THE START. THAT'S WHY WE WERE ALWAYS ON OUR GUARD!

HUH! OBELIX AND PEPE WILL BE CAPTURED, YOU'LL BE THROWN TO THE LIONS, AND I'LL BE PARDONED

CLANG!
CLONK!



BAD NEWS FOR YOU, BRONTOSALURUS. THE FAT GAUL AND THE HOSTAGE HAVE LEFT THE INN, AND THEY'RE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND...



GOOD FOR OBELIX!

ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS BESIEGE THE HOSTAGE'S FATHER'S VILLAGE. THE PAX ROMANA IN HISPANIA WILL BE BROKEN, ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR STUPIDITY!



BUT IT'S AN ILL WIND... I WAS LOOKING FOR A GOOD TURN FOR THE GAMES IN HISPANIA, SOMETHING SPECTACULAR TO END THE SEASON... WE HAVE TO HAVE PANEM ET CIRCENSES TO KEEP THE PEOPLE HAPPY...

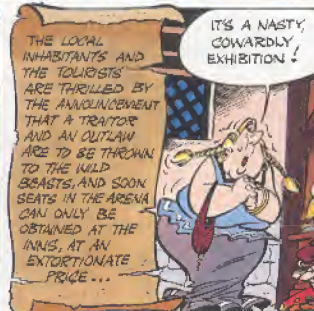


AS FOR THE PANEM, THEY'RE IMPROVING NO END, AND AS FOR THE CIRCENSES YOU'LL BE A FIRST-CLASS TURN. AVE!



CHEER UP ROMAN! WE HAVEN'T BEEN EATEN YET!

BUT IT'S NEARLY FEEDING TIME, AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN GOT YOUR MAGIC POTION!



THE LOCAL INHABITANTS AND THE TOURISTS ARE THRILLED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT A TRAITOR AND AN OUTLAW ARE TO BE THROWN TO THE WILD BEASTS, AND SOON SEATS IN THE ARENA CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED AT THE INNS, AT AN ENORMOUS PRICE...

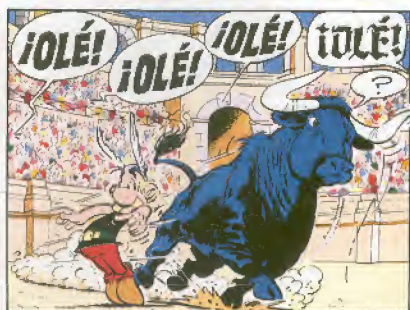
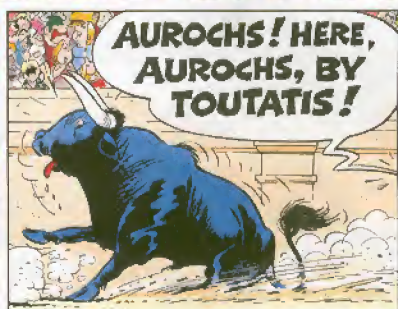
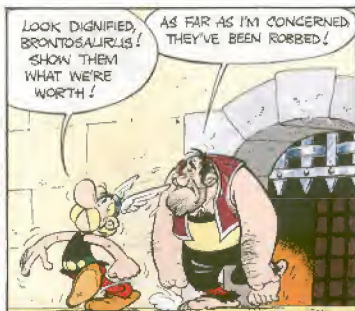
IT'S A NASTY, COWARDLY, EXHIBITION!

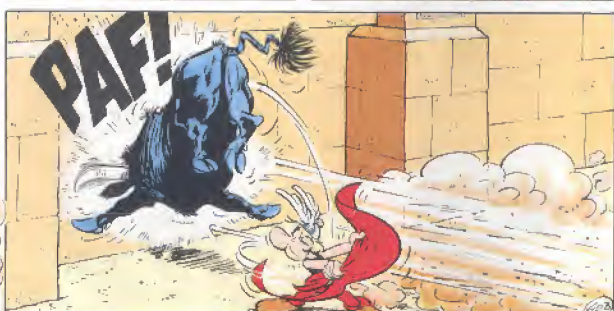


NOT AT ALL! THE MAN HAS A SPORTING CHANCE. AFTER ALL, IT'S A GOOD WAY FOR A FIGHTING MAN TO DIE. IT'S JUST SENTIMENTAL TO FEEL SORRY FOR HIM. AND THEN THERE'S MUSIC, ATMOSPHERE AND COLOUR...



SURE ENOUGH, AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON THE CIRCUS OF HISPANIA IS FULL OF MUSIC, ATMOSPHERE AND COLOUR







THANKS TO THE DIRECTIONS GIVEN BY THE GRATEFUL BRONTOSAURUS, ASTERIX ARRIVES AT PEPES' VILLAGE, WHICH IS BEING BESIEGED BY THE ROMANS

OBELIX!

**ASTERIX!
HERE I COME!**



I SAW YOU LEAVE THE INN YESTERDAY; I WAS JUST GOING OUT TO FIND SOME FISH FOR PEPE. BUT I LOST SIGHT OF YOU. SO I THOUGHT THE FIRST THING TO DO WAS GET PEPE TO SAFETY. LUCKILY HE KNEW THE WAY TO HIS VILLAGE!

HEY! HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU, FRIENDS?

IT WAS NOTHING, CHIEF HUEVOS Y BACON... WE'LL BE OFF HOME NOW

I DON'T WANT THEM TO GO!

YOU'VE LOOKED AFTER HIM SO WELL... HIS CHEEKS ARE AS ROSY AS EVER!

GOODBYE, PEPE! WE'LL BE BACK; THAT'S A PROMISE!

YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF ROMANS TO PLAY WITH NOW. THAT'S A PROMISE, HOMERIE!

SNIFF!

SNIFF!

AND AFTER A LONG AND PEACEFUL JOURNEY, OUR FRIENDS RETURN TO THE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE, WHERE THEY RECEIVE THEIR USUAL ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME... AND CACRONIX THE BARD, FOR ONCE, IS HAPPY!

AAAYYYY
WOOOE IS MEE!
AAAAYYY, IIII
SHALL DIIIIE!

A FISH, A FISH, MY KINGDOM FOR A FISH!

GRMPHFEEHEE!